Piepers [1] describes the theory of mimicry as superstition and romance which "we still hesitate to abandon, particularly in England,— in *Nature* and the *Trans. of the Entom. Soc. of London* it abounds." From the English journal *Field*, he cites the account of an Egyptian butterfly, in which the hind end so resembles the head end that a bird will be unable to know which way the insect will attempt to escape! Similarly Bashford Dean, at the recent meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in New Haven, ridiculed rather than discussed the theory. He referred to the popularity of the Indian butterfly Kallima mounted as mimic of European beech leaves.

The resemblances between butterflies of diverse genera, many of which were known to the older naturalists, remain the interesting feature. Many American books, however, instead of describing them, present the theory of mimicry with the Anosia-Basilarchia illustration, and thus "touch only the fringe of a great subject."

F. T. LEWIS.

The Inheritance of Disease.— Professor Bateson, in his last lecture before returning to England, presented a considerable list of human abnormalities which are transmissible, perhaps in Mendelian proportions. Several of these pertain to the eye. Displacement of the lens due to an asymmetrical development of its ligament, is dominant; and also *praesenile cataract*, which occurs at birth or soon after. The largest tabulation of the transmission of abnormality through the descendants of one individual, was a case of inability to see normally except in bright illumination (*hemeralopia*). Color blindness and eye color,— pure blue being recessive — were also discussed. Diagrams were shown illustrating the transmission of hypertrophied skin of palms and soles; of the tendency to blister, known as *epidermolysis bullosa*; of *diabetes insipidus*; and of *haemophilia*, in which there is extensive bleeding from slight wounds. In the last condition males are much more often affected than females, although the apparently unaffected females belonging to the families involved may transmit the disease. This was compared with the inheritance of the horned condition in sheep. A hornless breed crossed with a horned form yields horned males and hornless females, these females transmitting the horns to the males; by further crossing with the horned stock, horned females occur also. Professor Bateson believes that

[1] Piepers, M. C. Noch einmal: Mimicry, Selektion, Darwinismus. Leiden, E J. Brill, 1907. 481 pp.

the results of experimental breeding will show how various human afflictions may be eliminated.

Dr. E. E. Tyzzer (*Journ. of Med. Res.*, 1907, vol. 17, p. 199–211) discusses the inheritance of tumors in mice. Although "the analysis of data derived from a large number of human cases has failed to furnish evidence that a predisposition to cancer is inherited," it is known that some races of mice are susceptible to transplanted tumors and that other races are not. In one of the susceptible races spontaneous tumors were found in four individuals in a family of twenty-six, there being one case in each of four generations. The data obtained are insufficient "to prove or disprove that the development of a tumor is dependent upon the presence of an inherited character, although they may appear to favor this view." Further experiments upon this vital subject are in progress.

Malaria in Ancient Greece and Rome.[1] — "Modern Greece is intensely malarious.... It has been estimated that in the unhealthy year 1905, out of a total population of only about two and a half millions, nearly a million people were attacked with malaria and nearly six thousand died." The three authors of the little book under consideration believe that malaria was introduced into Greece in the fifth century B. C. by "soldiers, merchants or slaves coming from Africa or Asia, the ancient homes of malaria." In the fourth century B. C., it became prevalent, and it is considered to be an important cause for the sentimentalism in art, pessimism in philosophy, and decay in morality characteristic of that century. "By 300 B. C., the Greeks had lost much of their manly vigor and intellectual strength.... Malaria made the Greek weak and inefficient; it turned the sterner Roman into a bloodthirsty brute." It was endemic in Rome probably from the second century B. C. It is implied that the modern atrocities of white men in tropical regions may be due in part to malaria; and attention is called to the immunity of Japan in contrast with the prevalence of malaria in China as an influence in modern history. The evidence for these propositions, as found in this book, will interest students of medicine, history, and the classics.

The Distribution of European Animals. — Dr. Scharff's well known *History of the European Fauna*, published in 1899 and critically dis-

[1] Malaria. A neglected factor in the history of Greece and Rome. By W. H. S. Jones. With an introduction by Major R. Ross and a concluding chapter by G. G. Ellett. London, Macmillan & Co., 1907. 108 pp.